

Nature Education

Educational Services reached over 44,000 people in 2000 through public weekend programs, school field trips, day camps, after-school programs, outreach programs, special events, and workshops. Nature education programs were offered at five different nature centers, as well as parks and other sites throughout the city. *Nature Education highlights of 2000:*

- Provided 1,025 programs to 44,451 participants living in Cincinnati and surrounding communities.
- Provided over 4,000 inner-city children with constructive activities during the summer months as part of the “Nature Next Door” program. Thanks to the Bettman Foundation, Taft Semple Foundation, and the Ladislav and Vilma Segoe Family Foundation, children enjoyed interactive and hands-on activities at Inwood, Dempsey, Laurel, Martin Luther King, and Dyer Parks.
- Exposed inner-city students to neighborhood parks near their schools during “Nature Connection”, a grant-funded program. 810 students in third through sixth grade discovered the ecosystems in Inwood, Glenway Woods, Laurel, Parker’s Woods, and Washington Park. Participating schools included: Vine Street School, Corryville Catholic, Quebec Heights, Hay’s Elementary, Chase, and Washington Parks.
- Engaged over 5,200 youth (ages 3-15) in nature camps, back woods art camps, astronomy camps, out-

door skills camps, preschool camps, and drop-in camps during 34 summer day camps.

- Provided Cincinnati citizens with a family-oriented public nature program each and every weekend.
- Mailed four 20-page program guides to 1,200 families and distributing another 1,800 to other interested participants. 3,000 school program guides and 10,000 summer day camp guides were also distributed.

Educational Services has partnered with numerous organizations throughout the year on many important initiatives, including:

- The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District funded the week-long Land Lab program at Avon Woods in May and Water Fest in March. The Land Lab program taught 500 fifth graders about earth sciences, while Water Fest treated 5,000 fifth and sixth graders to exciting water activities.
- Keep Cincinnati Beautiful provided ten schools and 500 students with fees and buses to Avon Woods for a recycling program in the spring and fall.
- Hamilton County Environmental Services offered ten classes the opportunity to attend energy and recycling programs.

- The Greenacres Foundation adopted local high schools to monitor the water quality in five area creeks. A \$7,000 dual agency grant from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation funded this important program.
- The Hamilton County Library provided follow-up activities for children in the “Nature Next Door” program.
- The Cincinnati Wildflower Society and the local Sierra Club provided volunteer trail work for meeting space at the nature centers.



The “Nature Next Door” and “Nature Connection” programs welcomed thousands of children to Cincinnati Parks throughout the year.

Planning, Design, and Capital Improvements

Infrastucture renovation, park enhancement and restoration, and long range planning and design, are the central focus of Planning, Design and Construction. In addition, they also handle property issues, such as land transactions and easements. Over \$2 million in capital improvements were managed in 2000. Other highlights included:

- Received a \$1,000,000 appropriation from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) for the design of the Central Riverfront Park.
- Received a \$330,000 ODNR Watercraft Division Grant for the Central Riverfront Boat Dock.
- Managed the Central Riverfront Park project, including funding strategies, technical issues, coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers, and Design.
- Executed agreements with three private operators and eight municipalities, generating \$36,000 per year in rent for occupancy on the French Park Cell Tower.
- Constructed the Victory Parkway Recreation Area (Xavier Partnership Park).
- Completed the design, contract documents, and construction agreements for the conversion of the former Hauck House into offices for the Planning & Design Division.

- Represented the Park Board in Munich to work out the details for the gift of the Theodore M. Berry International Friendship Park pavilion.
- Continued implementation of a Playground Improvement Program. Four new playgrounds were built at Eden Park Playhouse, Rapid Run, Mt. Echo, and Burnet Woods. Design and contracts were completed for Kennedy Heights, Alms, Bellvue, and Drake. In cooperation with the Ault Park Advisory Council (APAC) and the Parks Foundation, design and construction documents for a new playground in Ault Park were also completed. Finally, the division coordinated the safety upgrade of swings in 15 parks
- Proceeded with the construction on Phase 2 of the master plan for Hoffner Park.
- Designed and installed a number of garden displays to promote Park Board programs, including: Japanese Garden Show at Krohn Conservatory, the "Excellence in Design" exhibit at the Ault Park Flower Show, and the Heim and Handwerk exhibition in Munich, Germany.
- Worked with donors to secure funding for: Bettman

Fountain Project in Hinkle Garden, Clifton Fountain/Plaza at Burnet Woods, and Alms Pavilion Landscape Improvement Project.

- Prepared for the Flower Show, Butterfly Show, and Artworks, which included everything from overseeing the booth and exhibit plans to arranging for electrical service.
- Renovated Piatt Park, which included repainting the arches, re-lamping, regrouting the fountains and replacing the pump motor, replacing electrical outlets, and sealing the benches.



The Eden Park Gazebo has been restored to its original beauty, thanks to the Planning, Design, and Capital Improvements division.

- Restored the Eden Park Gazebo.
- Inspected all rental facilities at the lodges and nature centers for proper emergency exit lighting and maximum occupancy capabilities and posting the appropriate signs.
- Trail planning and greenway planning for the Ohio River, Little Miami Scenic River Trails, and the Mill Creek Greenway.
- Began a community-based planning process for a new master plan for Stanbery Park.

Park Administration

Administrative services encompass a range of functions, including financial services and procurement, personnel services and training information technology and computer support, as well as general research and administrative support. Park Administration also directly supports the Board of Park Commissioners.

Accomplishments achieved during 2000:

BUDGET & PROCUREMENT

- Updated the 2001 budget.
- Processed 4,500 purchase orders and vouchers (city funds).
- Processed 1,000 purchase orders and vouchers (private funds).
- Maximized budgeted city funds to fully benefit Cincinnati Parks programs.
- Returned minimal unused city dollars.

PERSONNEL

- Appointed 13 new hires/transfers and 14 promotions for the Park Board.

- Coordinated training plans for all full-time employees.
- Maintained the training database and tracking hours of training per employee (goal of 30 hours per year).
- Reconvened the Parks Employee Safety Committee, comprised of a cross-section of employees.

PRIVATE ENDOWMENT (PE) FUNDS

- Adopted a new investment strategy for Private Endowment Funds.
- Adjusted the blend of equity and fixed income investments to maximize annual earnings and grow the value of the funds.
- Created a new endowment fund with a bequest from Sam Levy to maintain the floral clock planted in front of the Krohn Conservatory.

PARKS ORGANIZATION AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS

- Adopted administrative policies to enhance fairness and managerial efficiency:

1. Performance appraisal guidelines for attendance
2. Dress code and uniform policy
3. Return to work policy
4. Family Medical Leave Act
5. No smoking in Park Board vehicles

- Approved EEO/AA strategy.
- Hosted booths at NAACP job fair and attending 11 other career fairs.

MANAGEMENT OF COMPUTER NETWORK

- Maintained ParksNet system, including software upgrades and Y2K compliance.
- Instituted hardware inventory and replacement schedule based on equipment life cycle.
- Installed the new "Class" reservations software.
- Began to migrate Cincinnati Parks departmental e-mail system to citywide MS Outlook.



Natural Resource Management

Natural Resource Management is not only responsible for the city's urban forestry program, but is also responsible for the management and enhancement of public greenspaces along the interstate highways and designated boulevards and gateways. The department also cares for park trails and trees, as well as habitat protection and restoration projects. The forestry program is guided by the Urban Forestry Board. During 2000, the division:

- Planted 1,500 seedling trees along Mill Creek and

an additional 400 large trees along the interstates as part of the Greenspace program. The Street Tree program planted 2,371 where only 857 were removed.

- Removed street tree stumps approximately 60 days after a removal request was received by Natural Resource Management, which improved the appearance of our urban forest and offered planting holes for new street trees.

study to guide future parking lot development and beautification.

- Completed the Interstate Highway Greenspace Plan, which provides a long-term beautification strategy for the interstate highway system.
- Created a reforestation task force to guide the planting strategies for ten communities that do not meet expected tree canopy coverage.

- Resolved citizen requests for street tree management in an average of just 38 days, which reduced the city's risk of lawsuits.

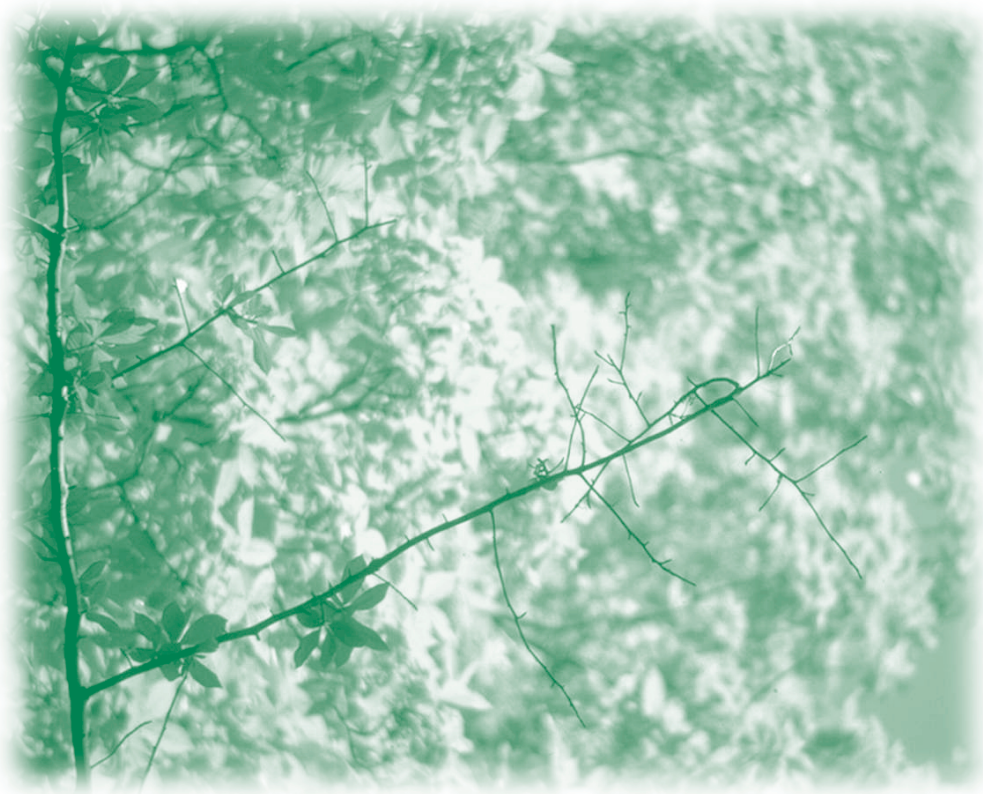
- Accepted the Tree City USA and Growth Awards for the Urban Forestry program's accomplishments during the year.

- Received the Iron Eyes Cody Award from Keep Cincinnati Beautiful for the Greenspace program's daylily and daffodil beautification program.

- Continued on the six year schedule for all Cincinnati street trees in the street tree maintenance program.

- Painted the planters on the Race Street Bridge orange and black for the opening of the Paul Brown Stadium.

- Completed a comprehensive parking lot



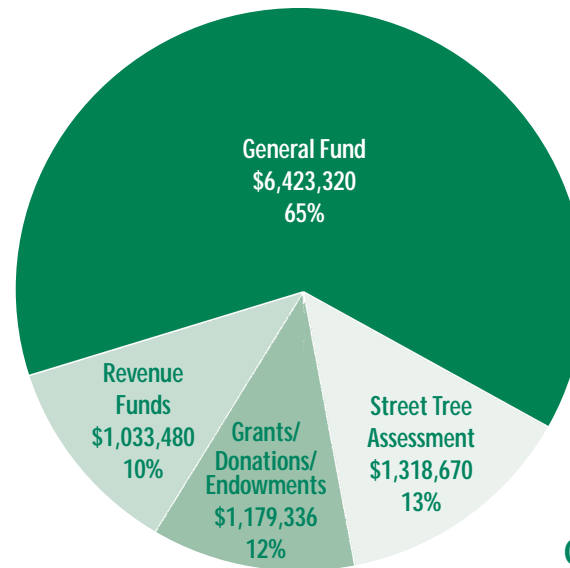
Natural Resource Management spent a portion of the year developing planting strategies for ten local communities without adequate tree canopy coverage.

Funding

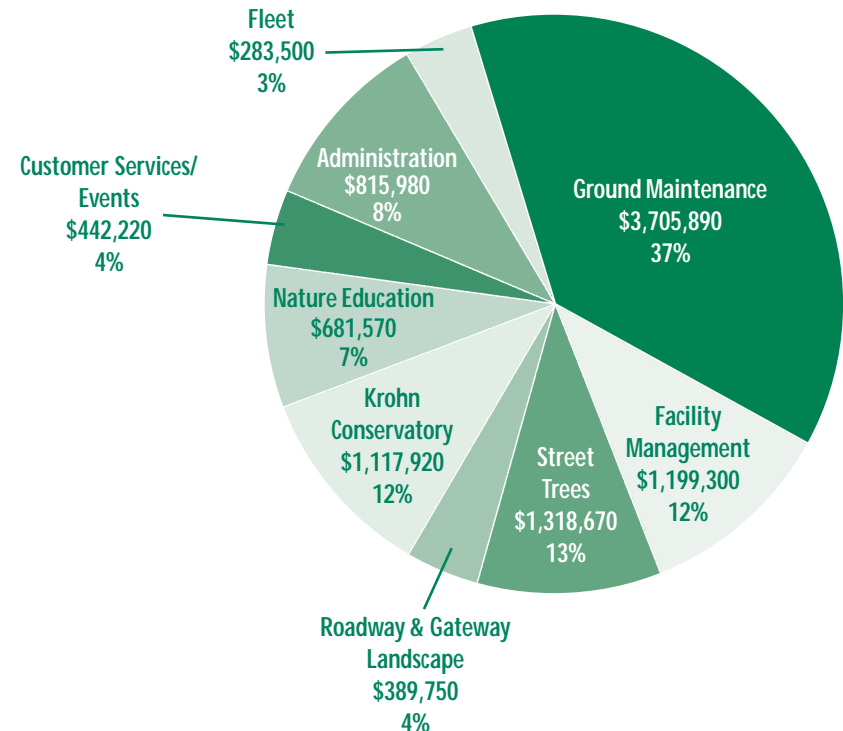
Cincinnati Parks' all-funds budget in 2000 exceeded \$14 million. Of this total, 15% came from such non-tax supported sources as grants, donations, endowments, and sponsorships, as well as fees and permits. Private fundraising for parks is led by the Cincinnati Parks Foundation. Exclusive of capital improvements, the basic park operation budget component of the above total was \$10 million. The pie charts illustrate the resource and expenditure budgets for 2000.

- The Parks Foundation raised nearly \$200,000.
- Admissions, fees, rents, permits, and sales generated almost \$1 million in revenue funds.
- Private endowments funded over \$1 million.
- Of the \$10 million all-funds operating budget, 22% comes from non-tax sources.

Operating Revenues \$9,954,800



Operating Budget \$9,954,800



CINCINNATI PARKS BY THE NUMBERS

- 5 “region-serving” parks
- 70 neighborhood parks
- 34 preserves and natural areas
- 5 parkways
- 50 miles of hiking trails
- 80,000 street trees on 1,000 miles of city streets
- Over 1,000 plant species at the Krohn Conservatory
- 5 nature centers
- 53 playgrounds
- 100 picnic areas
- Over 5,000 total acres (about 10% of the “city”)
- 125 full-time employees
- 750 volunteers

FOR MORE INFORMATION

General Information/Park Visitor Center <i>(hours of operation, event and concert info, programs and services information, customer services, permit information)</i>	513/352-4080 513/352-3380 (TTY)
Krohn Conservatory	513/421-5707
Nature Programs	513/321-6070
Urban Forestry	513/861-9070
Natural Resource Management	513/861-9070
Operation and Maintenance	513/861-8970
Facility Rentals	513/357-2604
Planning, Design, and Construction	513/475-9600
Volunteer Program	513/321-6208
Cincinnati Parks Foundation	513/357-2619

WWW.CINCI-PARKS.ORG

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The Cincinnati Park Board is an equal opportunity organization.